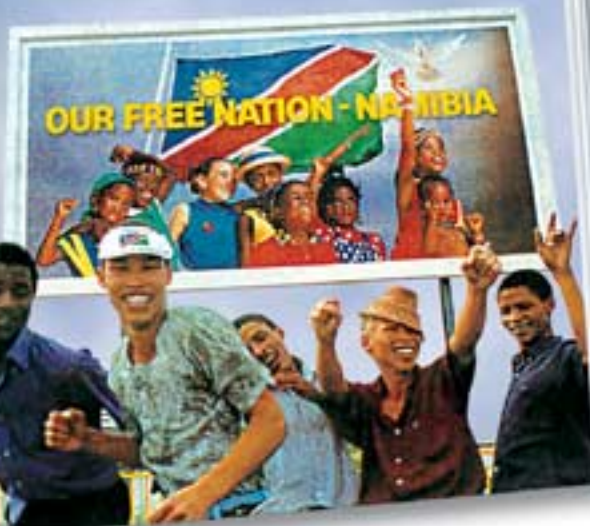





## CASE STUDY

### EFFECTS OF COLONIALISM

How can African nations bring peace and stability to their people?



Young people celebrate Namibia's independence from South Africa in 1990.

 **The Voyageur Experience in World Geography**  
Kenya: National Identity and Unity

**A**frica, at the beginning of the 19th century, was home to great empires and rich cultures such as the Zulu, the Ashanti, and the Hausa. At the end of the 19th century, Africa was a place of European colonial power and oppression. European governments and financial agents based in such places as French West Africa, Belgian Congo, and British East Africa controlled much of the continent. Africa has not been the same since. Much of the poverty and violence of the 20th century is the direct result of colonialism. As you read the Case Study, consider how Africa might overcome the legacy of European colonialism.

## Colonizing Africa

During the 15th century, Portuguese ships, looking for trade routes to Asia, landed in Africa. Soon other European countries established coastal trading stations there.

**EUROPEANS IN AFRICA** By the mid-1800s, Europeans knew of Africa's rich natural resources. They wanted these raw materials to fuel their own industrial economies and to establish markets to sell and trade their goods. In 1884–1885, the Berlin Conference, which you read about in Chapter 19, set down rules for dividing up Africa. European colonial control of Africa began to end in the early 20th century, but most African countries gained their independence in the 1960s. The Europeans did long-term damage to Africa, affecting its cultural and ethnic boundaries, and ruining its economy.

## Challenges of Independence

When the European colonial powers were forced to leave Africa, the newly independent African countries did not have stable governments in place. For the next 40 years, many of the newly established African nations and their peoples suffered through dictatorships and civil wars. Many of these conflicts had lasting consequences for the continent's economy and the people's well-being.

**COLONIAL TRANSITION** European governments did not understand the incredible ethnic diversity in Africa. Certain African ethnic groups are living together today only because European colonizers established national borders that grouped them together. Examine the map on page 469 and you will see the ethnic and cultural complexity in

SEE

PRIMARY SOURCE B

Africa. Each area marked by a red line is an ethnic group. Many of these groups now reside together in the present-day countries created by Europeans. Many groups living in the same country are historical enemies. For example, German and Belgian colonial governments aggravated historically tense relations between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups in present-day Rwanda and Burundi. In the early 1990s, the ethnic violence between these two groups resulted in a war that led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people.

Because of the way these colonial borders were drawn, many African governments had difficulty getting different ethnic groups to cooperate in building stable democracies. Dictators, such as Mobutu Sese Seko of what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, became common. In addition, many Africans had no experience living in democratic governments.

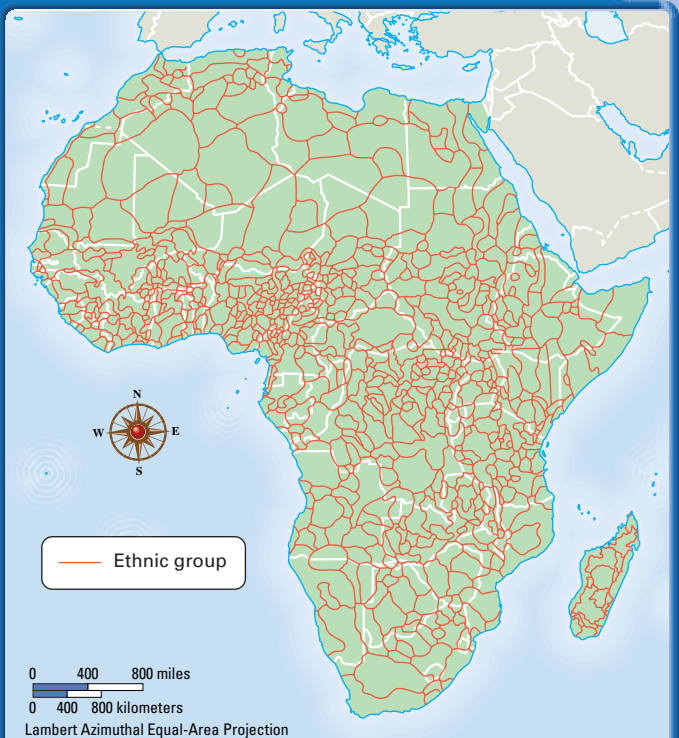
**CAUSE FOR HOPE** Establishing a democratic tradition is a primary goal for many African nations. Only through political stability can a nation bring peace and prosperity to its people. In the past decade, some African nations have been making progress. In 1994, the white minority government in South Africa finally yielded power to the black majority, ending decades of government-sanctioned racial discrimination and social injustice.

Furthermore, in 2001, Ghana swore in a new president in a peaceful transfer of power, unlike the coups and assassinations that had occurred during previous changes of government. These events are promising in a continent that is hoping for radical progress in the 21st century. Complete the Case Study Project on the following two pages to learn more about how Africa is dealing with the effects of colonialism.

SEE

PRIMARY SOURCE D

### Traditional Ethnic Boundaries of Africa



### SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1 **PLACE** Which modern-day country probably contains the most traditional ethnic groups?
- 2 **REGION** Which subregion of Africa was probably the least affected by the postcolonial reconstruction of Africa's boundaries?

**MOVEMENT** Voters line up during elections in South Africa.  
**How will elections help improve the lives of people in Africa?**







# CASE STUDY

## PROJECT

Primary sources A, B, C, D, and E on these two pages are about colonial and postcolonial Africa. Use these resources along with your own research to prepare a news report on postcolonial Africa.

## News Report

### Suggested Steps

1. Select one African country to study.
2. Use online and print resources to research your country's precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial history.
3. Highlight its people, resources, colonizers, and postcolonial activity.
4. Prepare a news report on the current status of your country, covering such topics as conflicts, the health and welfare of its people, the economy, and prospects for the future.

5. Practice your news report in front of a small audience. Ask them for ways to improve it.
6. Use a tape recorder or video recorder to tape your broadcast.

### Materials and Supplies

- computer with Internet access
- reference books, newspapers, magazines, and encyclopedias
- tape recorder or video recorder



RESEARCH LINKS  
CLASSZONE.COM

### PRIMARY SOURCE A

**Eyewitness Account** In his desire for more and more rubber from the Congo, Belgian King Leopold II adopted terrorism as his preferred method of persuasion. In 1899, the British vice consul offered this eyewitness account.

An example of what is done was told me up the Ubangi [River]. This officer's method was to arrive in canoes at a village, the inhabitants of which invariably bolted on their arrival; the soldiers were then landed, and commenced looting, taking all the chickens, grain, etc. out of the houses; after this, they attacked the natives until able to seize their women; these women were kept as hostages until the chief of the district brought in the required number of kilograms of rubber. The rubber having been brought, the women were sold back to their owners for a couple of goats apiece, and so he continued from village to village until the requisite amount of rubber had been collected.

### PRIMARY SOURCE B

**Statement of Principle** Kwame Nkrumah was the leader of post-colonial Ghana until he was overthrown in 1966. In his book, *I Speak of Freedom*, published in 1961, he wrote about his hopes for postcolonial Africa.

For centuries, Europeans dominated the African continent. The white man [claimed] the right to rule and to be obeyed by the non-white; his mission, he claimed, was to "civilize" Africa. Under this cloak, the Europeans robbed the continent of vast riches and inflicted unimaginable suffering on the African people.

All this makes a sad story, but now we must be prepared to bury the past with its unpleasant memories and look to the future. All we ask of the former colonial powers is their goodwill and cooperation to remedy past mistakes and injustices and to grant independence to the colonies in Africa.

It is clear that we must find an African solution to our problems, and that this can only be found in African unity. Divided we are weak; united, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good in the world.

### PRIMARY SOURCE C

**News Analysis** Ron Daniels, writing in the magazine *Black World Today*, offered this analysis of the Trade and Development Act of 2000. This law recognizes the need to promote economic growth and reduce poverty in Africa, but the law only helps a small number of countries.

How ironic, tragic even, that as we prepare to enter a new century and millennium, Africa, the motherland, is so afflicted by poverty, underdevelopment, hunger, disease, corruption, and debt that African leaders, out of desperation . . . , are in effect begging to be recolonized. How ironic that the continent whose historical underdevelopment under slavery and colonialism, whose vast human and material resources contributed mightily to the enrichment and development of Europe and America must now turn to the former slave-masters and colonizers for a "bail-out."

### PRIMARY SOURCE E

**Political Cartoon** Cartoonist Alan King drew this cartoon in 1996. The cartoon appeared in the *Ottawa Citizen* in Ottawa, Canada. King shows the unending cycle of indecisive attitudes on the part of the international community. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, which was formerly known as Zaire, suffers from these indecisive attitudes.



### PRIMARY SOURCE D

**Editorial Commentary** On January 8, 2001, the New York Times editorial page included this essay on the changes that have taken place in Ghana. The editorial was titled "An African Success Story."

In its first two decades of independence, the West African nation of Ghana was an archetypal political disaster, brought low by successive coups and dictatorships, corruption and near total economic collapse. Today, Ghana is a welcome African example of legitimate democracy and successful economic reform. In an unusually peaceful transfer of power, a civilian government that grew out of a military regime has accepted an election defeat and surrendered power to the opposition.

John Kufuor, an Oxford-trained lawyer and businessman, and the leader of Ghana's opposition New Patriotic Party, was sworn in as president yesterday. He defeated John Atta Mills, the incumbent vice president, in an election widely viewed as free and fair. President Jerry Rawlings, the charismatic former flight lieutenant who has dominated Ghana for nearly 20 years, stepped down after reaching a constitutional two-term limit as elected president.

### PROJECT Checklist

#### Have I . . .

- ✓ fully researched the country I chose to investigate?
- ✓ included information about the current status of the country?
- ✓ taped my broadcast in the form of an actual news report?